

The following claims are presented for examination:

- 1.** (Original) An apparatus comprising:
  - (a) a plurality of access points, wherein each of said access points performs a first protocol service for a respective network, and wherein the correctness of said first protocol service is based on a maximum timing delay; and
  - (b) a central controller for:
    - (i) receiving an input signal from each of said plurality of access points, and
    - (ii) transmitting to each of said plurality of access points an output signal based on the input signal from that access point and a second protocol service, wherein the correctness of said second protocol service is independent of said maximum timing delay.
- 2.** (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first protocol service belongs to a layer selected from the group consisting of: physical layer, and data link layer.
- 3.** (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said first protocol service is selected from the group consisting of: a medium access control service, an error control service, and a flow control service.
- 4.** (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second protocol service is selected from the group consisting of: an authentication service, an authorization service, a traffic monitoring service, an admission control service, and a polling list maintenance service.
- 5.** (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said central controller is also for:
  - (iii) receiving a datum via a wide-area network, and
  - (iv) transmitting said datum to at least one of said access points.
- 6.** (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of said access points is also for receiving a first datum from said central controller and for transmitting a second datum based on said first datum to at least one station in said respective network.

**7.** (Original) A method comprising:

(a) performing a first protocol service with a first processor, wherein the correctness of said first protocol service is based on a maximum timing delay;

(b) transmitting a first signal to a second processor, wherein said second processor is for performing a second protocol service, and wherein the correctness of said second protocol service is independent of said maximum timing delay; and

(c) receiving from said second processor a second signal based on said second protocol service.

**8.** (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising (d) detecting a first condition, wherein (a) is in response to (d).

**9.** (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said first condition comprises the transmission of a signal over a shared-communications channel.

**10.** (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said first condition comprises an idle time interval for a shared-communications channel.

**11.** (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising (e) detecting a second condition, wherein (b) is in response to (e).

**12.** (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said second condition comprises the transmission of a signal over a shared-communications channel.

**13.** (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein said second condition comprises an idle time interval for a shared-communications channel.

**14.** (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising (d) detecting a condition, wherein (b) is in response to (d).

**15.** (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said condition comprises the transmission of a signal over a shared-communications channel.

**16.** (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said condition comprises an idle time interval for a shared-communications channel.

**17.** (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said first protocol service belongs to a layer selected from the group consisting of: physical layer, and data link layer.

**18.** (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said first protocol service is selected from the group consisting of: a medium access control service, an error control service, and a flow control service.

**19.** (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said second protocol service is selected from the group consisting of: an authentication service, an authorization service, a traffic monitoring service, an admission control service, and a polling list maintenance service.

**20.** (Original) A method comprising:

- (a) performing a first protocol service for a first network at a first processor, wherein the correctness of said first protocol service is based on a maximum timing delay;
- (b) performing said first protocol service for a second network at a second processor;
- (c) transmitting a first signal from said first processor to a third processor;
- (d) performing a second protocol service for said first network at a third processor, wherein the correctness of said second protocol service is independent of said maximum timing delay;
- (e) transmitting a second signal from said third processor to said first processor, wherein said second signal is based on said second protocol service;
- (f) transmitting a third signal from said second processor to said third processor;
- (g) performing said second protocol service for said second network at said third processor; and
- (e) transmitting a fourth signal from said third processor to said second processor, wherein said fourth signal is based on said second protocol service.

**21.** (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein said first protocol service belongs to a layer selected from the group consisting of: physical layer, and data link layer.

**22.** (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said first protocol service is selected from the group consisting of: a medium access control service, an error control service, and a flow control service.

**23.** (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein said second protocol service is selected from the group consisting of: an authentication service, an authorization service, a traffic monitoring service, an admission control service, and a polling list maintenance service.